

THE PARISH MESSENGER

A PERSONAL VISITOR TO THE PARISHES

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA — DECEMBER 1959

Christmas Message

The Rev. Edward Archer Day



Much of our world may be in chaos, with many hearts failing for fear of what tomorrow may bring, but during late December the most frequently heard greeting will be "Merry Christmas!"

Christians do have a very deep reason for being joyous as they keep Christmas. "I bring you good news of great joy that is to be felt by all the people," said the Christmas angel to the shepherds. (Luke 2:10). Even when diluted by sentimentalism and secularism, Christmas makes people sing. Atheism has no jubilant anthems, nor has skepticism its lilting carols. Christmas is truly the joyous mystery.

What are the elements of joy in the celebration of Christmas? It is easy for us to think of such things as the smile of a baby, the laughter of children, the reunion of families, gay decorations, customs, traditional delicacies, and the ex-

change of gifts. But one fact so many celebrants seem to forget: the Baby grew up.

The Man Christ Jesus blazed the trail into life that has joy at its centre. In a world as tragic and evil as this, He lived and came Victor over personal and impersonal forces ranged against Him. He is the incarnation of our sublimest hopes. He came and did all that He did that His joy might be in us. Yet although His life, His teachings, His Spirit, might awaken hope within us and the joy that hope brings, this hope would remain unfulfilled, even a mockery, if Jesus stood alone, unrelated to the nature of things.

Hence, the deepest joy of Christmas issues from a central act of faith: in the life begun in a manger, continued through manhood, and "ended" on a cross, God Himself has acted uniquely and redemptively. God "has visited and redeemed His people" in Jesus Christ. Christmas is basically the Church's festival hailing that divine intrusion. Christmas as a superficial pattern, a tinseled bauble, or a wistful hope can never help our deepest hurts. But the real Christmas, as a reproducible spiritual experience, can! The incomparable Nativity story tells us that God is truly with us. Through Word and Sacrament at this Christmas time, let us receive Him!

Arborg - Riverton Parish

The Riverton parish voted unanimously on October 4th to extend a formal 'Call' to the Rev. Olin S. Nordsletten, pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Seattle, Washington. Word was received November 10th, that he had declined the 'call'. Pastor Nordsletten said that he had received a second 'call' from another congregation in the States at the same time, but after much prayer and soul searching, had decided to remain in his present parish. It is discouraging to receive the news of still another declination, but we must pray and seek to find the pastor who feels sincerely led of God to become the shepherd of the new Riverton parish. We would ask the members of other congregations in synod to remember our search in their prayers.

Congregational stewardship dinners were held in Arborg and Riverton on November 6th and 7th respectively. In both cases the women of the church cooked and served excellent turkey dinners. Approximately 160 persons attended the Riverton dinner held at the hall. After dinner there was a hymn sing and Pastor Larson spoke briefly. The Rev. Lothar Schwabe, pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Winnipeg, was the guest speaker at the Arborg dinner, attended by 115 members and friends of the congregation. Pastor Schwabe spoke following presentations

by Einar Gislason, financial secretary and Arthur Sigurdson, president of the congregation.

Winter came early this year — a full month earlier than last year when it was thought to be early. Some roads were impassable for quite a while and several services had to be cancelled.

Our congregations have given more for the world-wide work of Christ's Church in the first ten months of this year than in all twelve months of 1958, and 1958 was an all-time high for our parishes. Geysir leads the list with an increase of almost 200 per cent and Arborg is more than one hundred dollars ahead of last year's total.

The Rev. Clifton L. Monk, director of Canadian Lutheran World Relief, conducted the services in our parish on October 25th. Pastor Larson was the guest missionary at St. Peter's Lutheran church in Winnipeg during the Evangelism Mission week.

In the spring of 1929, Mrs. Grace Reid was asked to teach Sunday School for a few Sundays at Ardal Lutheran Church, and she has been teaching there ever since. Former class members are now scattered far and wide but many of her former pupils and co-workers were able to attend the service in October at which she was honored. As tokens of the congregation's gratitude, Mrs. Reid was presented with a certificate of appreciation and a one volume commentary on the Bible (as an aid to her teaching in the years to come).

The Rev. O. Jack Larson

From the President's Desk

As I write these lines we are in the last few days of the "Church Year". The new "Church Year" begins on Advent Sunday, Nov. 29th. As I think of Advent, the lines of one of the season's well-known hymns comes to my mind: "O How Shall I Receive Thee, how greet Thee, Lord, aright?" For true Christians there is only one answer: "... to do in spirit lowly, all that may please Thee best." My sincere and humble prayer for all the people of our synod is that their reception of the Christ this Advent-Christmastide will be a living affirmation of the lines quoted above. My sincere Christmas greetings to you come with a prayer that your Christmas preparation and celebration will be a joyous reception of the Christ Child into your hearts and homes. "Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee"

There are many things we should be thinking about as "Christians united" in our synod now. One is the cause of LUTHERAN WORLD ACTION. Up to Nov. 1st, our treasurer and stewardship secretary report only about 800 dollars has been contributed to that cause during 1959. We make no stated apportionment for Lutheran Action giving in our synod, but hope that our congregations will give generously to this important cause which is "Love's Working Arm" in the many needy areas of the world. But what we have given is only about 25 per cent of our fair share in relation to other synod's giving. When you make a contribution to LWA you are feeding a hungry child, clothing a cold little body, bringing help in a hundred ways to people in desperate need in our

world. Half of this year and the first half of next is called "World Refugee Year". The United Nations, and church agencies like Lutheran World Action, are trying to solve the plight of the refugee. Extra aid is being solicited in every country to give help to this problem. Our help should be through more generous gifts to Lutheran World Action. Now is a good time to give your help — the Christmas-Epiphany season. All churches in synod should have a special LWA offering during or just after the Christmas season.

The Stewardship Secretary has submitted a report regarding our apportionment giving to general benevolence. It shows we have a long way to go yet before the financial year end on Jan. 20th. But we could still make our 100 per cent share of synod apportionment, for synod and ULCA causes, if we try a little harder. Congratulations to the congregations who have already or indicate now that they will do their full share! I am grateful to see a gradual growth in giving for the wide work of the church.

Did you know that during 1959 the Board of Pensions of our ULCA has granted in monthly payments \$6,869.00 to the eleven retired pastors and pastors' widows of our synod? (Four retired pastors, seven widows.) That's more than the total amount our synod has sent so far in 1959 to the ULCA for ALL purposes: foreign missions, home missions, social missions, pensions, Christian education, etc. . . . ! Most of this money the Pensions Board sends our beloved senior pastors

(Continued on Page 4)

From the President's Desk (Cont'd)

and pastors' widows is an outright gift from benevolence funds, because when many of the recipients were in active service there was no "Contributory" Pension Plan such as is available now for pastors and congregations in which to participate.

Five congregations of synod — First Lutheran, St. Stephen's, Selkirk, Langruth and Lundar — participated in the Evangelism Mission Week in southern Manitoba in late October. Special congratulations go to LUNDAR for being first in attendance statistics for the entire Mission! (30 congregations were participating.) Average attendance for the evening services at Lundar was 131! Host Pastor Jon Bjarman and Missioner Don Olsen report that there was a fine response by the people of Lundar, in the total program of the Mission Week. Results of the Mission in the other congregations of synod were gratifying also.

Mountain Parish deeply misses their popular pastor of the last 4½ years, the Rev. Olafur Skulason who has now returned to Iceland. Pastor and Mrs. Skulason did excellent work in their large parish in North Dakota and were loved and respected by their people as well as by the Synod as a whole. We wish them happiness in their new work in Iceland. On the last day of November the new Mountain Parish pastor is expected to arrive in the person of the Rev. Hjalti Gudmundsson of Reykjavik. He is a young man, recently ordained, and comes well recommended and eager to serve in our synod. Pastor Gudmundsson is married and they have one child. He was

a soloist with the choir in the "Dómkirkja" (Cathedral Church) in Reykjavik. We welcome him to our synod!

Riverton parish has a new parsonage, but is anxiously seeking a pastor. Many men have been called to the parish but as yet without success. Pastor Larson continues to serve both Arborg and Riverton parishes.

On Oct. 1st, Gimli Parish welcomed Pastor and Mrs. K. Simundsson of Seattle to serve them for an interim period until a permanent pastor can be called. Pastor Simundsson was ordained in our synod over 30 years ago, but served most of his ministry with the Pacific Synod, ULCA. He is now retired but willingly consented to come and help in the Gimli parish till next summer. Besides his parish ministry in the three churches of the parish, Gimli, Arnes, Husavik, he ministers to our 95 senior citizens at Betel Home. We welcome him and Mrs. Simundsson into our midst.

Also on Oct. 1st the members of First Lutheran Church, Winnipeg, honored their pastor and his wife, Dr. and Mrs. V. J. Eylands, for 21 years of continuous service to the congregation. The church was filled, and representatives of the congregation spoke and expressed sincere gratitude for Dr. Eyland's long and faithful ministry. The honored couple was presented with an illuminated scroll and a purse of money. Your president brought greetings from the synod.

In mid-October Glenboro Church or Argyle Parish celebrated their 40th anniversary. Your synod pre-

(Continued on Page 23)

First Lutheran Church

The summer and fall season has been a busy one for the First Lutheran Church, with an unusually large number of special activities, such as the services held during the holiday month; the Vacation Church School; the Evangelism Mission; the Fellowship gathering to honour Dr. and Mrs. Eylands; the organ recital; participation in leadership courses and other conferences; and innumerable activities by the various organizations.

At the morning service, October 4th, the officers and teachers of the Sunday School for the coming season were installed in an impressive ceremony. It was a touching scene when the dedicated young people stepped forward as their names were called and presented themselves at the front of the church to receive the commission to teach from our Pastor. We owe much to these people, who year after year serve in the demanding capacity of Sunday School teachers.

A fellowship gathering was held in the church, October 1st, to honour Dr. and Mrs. Eylands. It was attended by a capacity audience and proved to be a delightful way of showing our love and appreciation to our Pastor and his wife for their devoted service of twenty-one years. Telegrams and letters came from various places — among them from Dr. Franklin C. Fry, president of our United Lutheran Church and Sigurbjorn Einarsson, Bishop of Iceland. The speakers and messages paid warm tribute to the outstanding accomplishments of Dr. Eylands in the field of spiritual and community leadership and literature; to the devoted service given by him and Mrs. Eylands to our church. They mentioned the hon-

ours that have deservedly come to him and expressed the hope that we would enjoy his fine talents and his able endeavours for many long years to come.

The dedication of our new organ took place at the morning service, October 11th, in a solemn ceremony of special responsive reading which closed with the prayer: "Blest and dedicate be this organ to the praise of Almighty God, to His honor and glory and to the uplift our hearts and minds in the services of this house. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen." An initiatory organ recital was held in the church Sunday, October 18th, when G. Barry Anderson, B.A., A.R.C.T., L.T.C.L., A.M.M., played our new organ for about an hour and a half, performing some very fine selections of organ music and evoking a variety of exquisite tones from our new instrument.

The Board of American Mission has assigned Sister Laufey Olson as parish worker to our congregation, according to the request of our Church Council and Pastor. She commenced her work with us October 15th and will devote her time to youth work, visitations and

(Continued on Page 6)

NEW FREE FILMSTRIP

"A Chance to Serve" is the title of the new free filmstrip concerning the Diaconic Year Program so that women will be challenged to give one year of service to the Church as AIDS. Order direct from THE AIDS PROGRAM, 2900 Queen Lane, Philadelphia 29, Pa.

First Lutheran Church (Cont'd)

canvassing. Sister Laufey has done excellent work in the parishes to which she has been assigned since her consecration. We bid her welcome and pledge her our full co-operation.

The First Lutheran Church made preparations in the month of June to hold a Vacation Church School for two weeks, August 17th to 28th. All homes in the neighborhood were visited and about 120 children were enrolled. For various reasons all those enrolled were not able to attend, but 60 children came to the classes. The closing program was attended by about 80 parents and other interested persons. The children gave a program of songs, recitations, Bible reading and full choral numbers. Dr. Eylands showed a Bible story in colored slides,

and refreshments were served by the teachers. The effort was considered a success.

Extensive preparations were made for Mission Week. The Evangelism Committee prepared a complete list of all members to be either visited or telephoned. A prospect list was also prepared. Altogether some 300 visits were made and hundreds of phone calls. The opening of the mission, Sunday morning, was very well attended but the five evening services were somewhat disappointing as to attendance. Dr. John Kindsvatter, our missioner, from Wooster, Ohio, was a most effective speaker and his sermons were really inspiring. One of the interesting features of the sessions was the long list of

(Continued on Page 21)

How Benevolent Are We?

On the following page you will find a report of the Benevolence receipts by the Synodical Treasurer to November 12, 1959. At this date congregations who would appear to be approaching their apportionment should have remitted about 83%. Examination of the report will show:

- 3 Congregations 100% or over
- 2 Congregations between 83 % and 100%
- 6 Congregations between 50% and 83%
- 15 Congregations between 1% and 50%
- 4 Congregations — Nil

This is the year the Convention expressed the hope that we would be able to remit our full apportionment to the U.L.C.A.

If we are to do this it will require soul-searching self-examination, prayer and concerted effort on all our parts. This, the Advent Season, is a time to contemplate our grateful and loving thanks to God for His Son.

Let us do this — search our souls, examine ourselves, pray, make a grateful and loving expression of our thanks to God, for His Son, for His many blessings to us.

Let us do this thing, which we all, as Christians, know to be the Will of God. Let us in this Season place others before ourselves and through our Benevolence Offering assist His Church to do those things He would have it do.

Synod Benevolence Receipts

To and Including November 12, 1959

	Apportionment	Receipts Received	%	L.W.A.
First Lutheran, Winnipeg	\$ 4,325.40	\$1,500.00	34.6	102.25
Selkirk, Selkirk	2,007.18	123.55	6.1	
Gimli, Gimli	1,287.90	325.00	25.2	10.00
Icelandic, Vancouver	2,287.90	500.00	38.8	85.25
Braethra, Riverton	1,166.40	145.24	12.5	6.34
Ardal, Arborg	1,122.66	753.31	67.1	59.22
Calvary, Seattle	1,093.50	1,297.07	118.5	45.85
Lundar, Lundar	879.66	13.50	1.5	
St. Pauls, Minneota	782.46	597.89	76.8	218.76
St. Stephens, St. James	777.60	1,166.14	150.0	59.81
Vikur, Mountain	772.74	373.16	48.3	
Herthubreith, Langruth	685.25	225.00	32.8	27.00
Peters, Svold	607.50	224.50	37.0	
Vidalin, Hensel	510.30	296.33	58.1	
Geysir, Geysir	471.42	220.75	47.0	8.27
Breithvikur, Hnausa	383.94			5.43
Mikleyar, Hecla	335.34			
Fjalla, Milton	335.34	200.00	60.0	
Immanuel, Baldur	306.18	230.00	75.1	36.80
Arnes, Arnes	306.18	19.00	6.2	5.43
Glenboro, Glenboro	291.60	209.98	71.9	71.97
Vidir, Vidir	291.60	111.76	38.3	16.00
Lincoln, Taunton	247.86	209.00	84.3	
Hallson, Hallson	218.70			
Gudbrands, Morden	218.70			
Vidines, Husavik	199.26	25.00	12.6	
Frikirkju, Bru	179.82	154.00	85.5	10.00
Trinity, Pt. Roberts	136.08	136.08	100.0	
Concordia, Churchbridge	106.92	25.55	23.9	45.00
Frelsis, Grund	87.48			25.00
Gardar, Gardar		85.05		
	<hr/> \$21,641.58	<hr/> \$ 9,166.86	<hr/> 42.4	<hr/> 838.38
U.L.C.A. Apportionment		<hr/> 16,001.00		
Remitted		<hr/> 6,250.00		
% Remitted		<hr/> 38.9		

Congregational Treasurers are urged to forward all Benevolence offerings to the Synodical Treasurer as soon after each month end as is possible. The NEEDS—both Churchwide and Synodical—are urgent.

Gimli Parish

The Gimli parish is fortunate now, after a summer of vain searching for a pastor, to have obtained the services of Pastor K. Simundsson, retired Seattle pastor, on a temporary basis for nine months. Pastor Simundsson, known to many in Winnipeg, his early home, and Mrs. Simundsson, are endearing themselves to all in Gimli by their sincere, loving and kindly service here, and we are all very sorry that their stay among us is destined to be a brief one. They are both working hard to give us all they can in our church while they are here and we feel that the effect of their witness will be great. Pastor Simundsson is planning to begin a Bible Study group in the near future... He and Mrs. Simundsson meet regularly with the evangelism committee who have worked out a plan by which all church members help out with caretaking — a plan which has been well received by all, since it burdens no one when the labor is divided among so many.

Mr. Alex Nickey, one of our council members, is working towards the reorganization of our Luther League, which has been inactive the past year. In this he will be assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bailey, as leaders. Don Nevile has been elected president. Don is also doing a fine job as our new organist.

The Sunday School, still under the superintendency of Mrs. J. H. Menzies, has 175 children on the roll. Plans are now being made for the Christmas concert. Mrs. Menzies and Mrs. Art Seaby still maintain the weekday kindergarten, which meets two afternoons a week and is greatly appreciated by

mothers as a preparatory class for pre-schoolers, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran.

The Dorcas Society presented a fashion show tea in November and the Ladies' Aid held a variety dinner later in the month. With the additional expense which comes up each year — this year being plumbing connections with the town water system for both church and parsonage — we still find it necessary to have the financial support of our hard-working ladies' groups.

The Gimli Parish wishes here to express their deep gratitude to Pastor Jack Larson of Arborg, for his assistance the past summer in keeping our church open while we had no pastor of our own. Because of his tireless energy, the Gimli church had a service every Sunday during the summer — something which has not occurred other years, even with a resident pastor of our own. May God bless this dedicated young pastor always.

We extend our best wishes for the Christmas season to all our fellow members of the Icelandic synod. May the blessings of the season rest upon you all throughout the coming year.

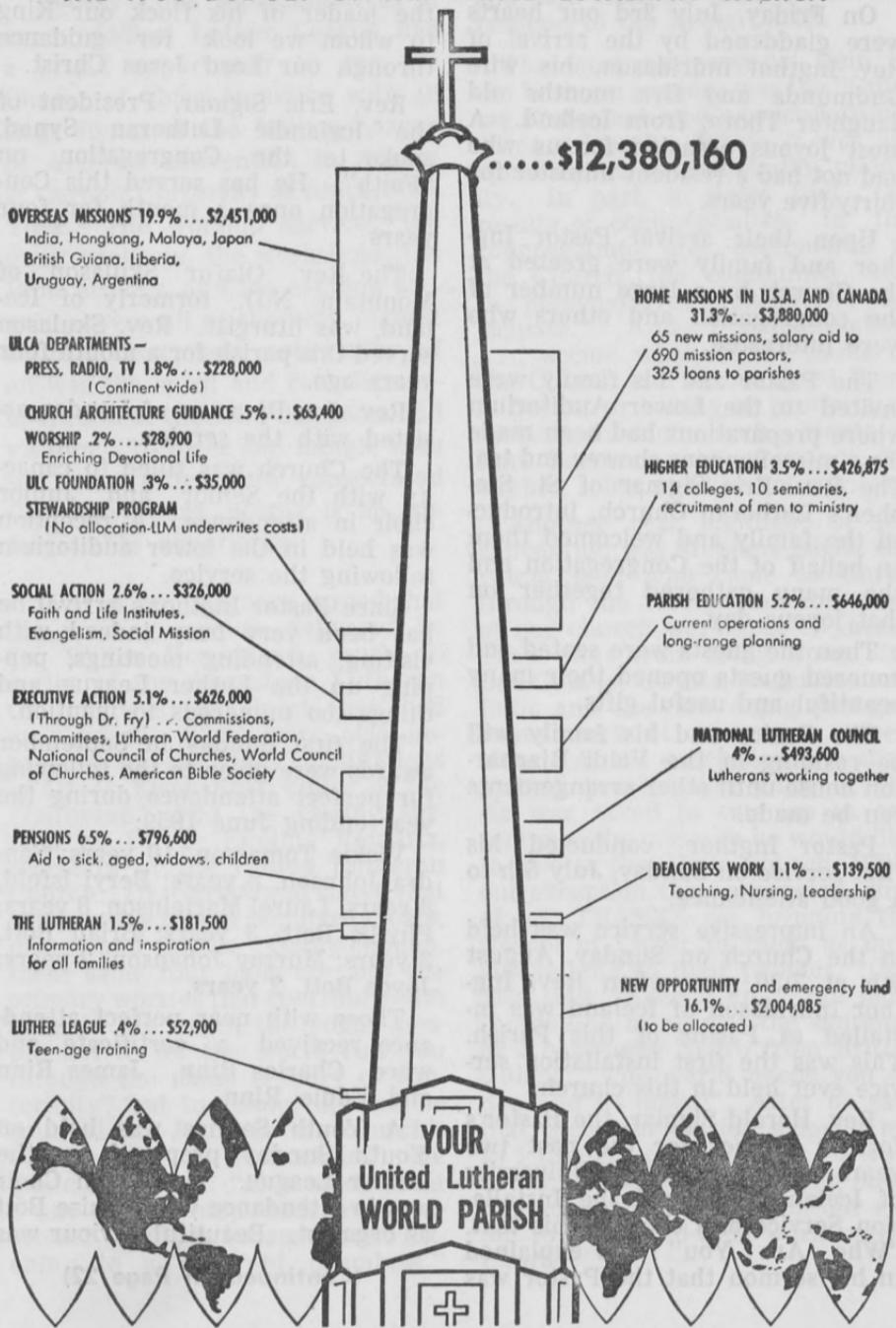
—Mrs. Ethel Howard

JANUARY 10 IS NEXT DEADLINE

Please send news copy and glossy pictures to the editor for the February issue of the Parish Messenger no later than January 10, 1960. Address: Mrs. R. Goodman, 87 Fidler Ave., Winnipeg 12, Manitoba.

How High Do We Lift the Cross?

THE 1960 BUDGET OF THE UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH



Langruth Parish News

On Friday, July 3rd our hearts were gladdened by the arrival of Rev. Ingthor Indridason, his wife Gudmunda and five months old daughter Thora, from Iceland. A most joyous occasion for us who had not had a resident minister for thirty-five years.

Upon their arrival Pastor Ingthor and family were greeted at the Church by a large number of the congregation and others who were interested.

The Pastor and his family were invited to the Lower Auditorium where preparations had been made for a miscellaneous shower and tea. The Rev. Eric Sigmar of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, introduced the family and welcomed them on behalf of the Congregation and the many gathered together on that joyous day.

Then the guests were seated and honored guests opened their many beautiful and useful gifts.

The Pastor and his family will be residing in the Valdi Bjarnarson house until other arrangements can be made.

Pastor Ingthor conducted his first service on Sunday, July 5th to a good attendance.

An impressive service was held in the Church on Sunday, August 9th at 7:30 p.m. when Rev. Ingthor Indridason of Iceland was installed as Pastor of this Parish. This was the first installation service ever held in this church.

Rev. Harold Sigmar, the Pastor's former teacher for the past two years at the Seminary, University of Iceland, delivered the Installation Service and chose as his text, "Who Are You" and explained in his sermon that the Pastor was

the leader of his flock our King to whom we look for guidance through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. Eric Sigmar, President of the Icelandic Lutheran Synod, spoke to the Congregation on "Faith". He has served this Congregation once a month for four years.

The Rev. Olafur Skulason of Mountain, N.D., formerly of Iceland, was liturgist. Rev. Skulason served this parish for a month four years ago.

Rev. Jon Bjarman of Lundar assisted with the service.

The Church was filled to capacity with the Senior and Junior choir in attendance. A reception was held in the lower auditorium following the service.

Since Pastor Ingthor's arrival he has been very busy indeed with visiting, attending meetings, pep-ping up the Luther League and things too numerous to mention.

The first Sunday in September awards were given to the following for perfect attendance during the year ending June 1959:

Vickie Tomasson, 10 years; Sandra Johnson, 8 years; Beryl Isfeld, 8 years; Laurel Marteinson, 8 years; Phyllis Bott, 3 years; Brian Bott, 3 years; Murray Johanson, 2 years; Joyce Bott, 2 years.

Those with near perfect attendance received a certificate and were Charles Rinn, James Rinn and Eddie Rinn.

A Youth Service was held on Youth Sunday prepared by the Luther League. The Youth Choir was in attendance with Louise Bott as organist. Beautiful Saviour was

(Continued on Page 22)

Convention of the Luther League

Twenty-one representatives of our synodical Luther League had a grand opportunity to see the Church of Christ in action with all flags flying at the Luther League of America convention in August at Cornell University at Ithica, New York. The worship services, the guest speakers, the workshops, the Bible studies, and the evening programs were all of the very highest calibre. But most noteworthy of all was the spirit and complete co-operation of the 2100 delegates and visitors. To meet and mingle with so many gifted and consecrated Christian young people is an unforgettable experience.

Most of our leaguers agreed that the opening sermon, delivered by Dr. Wilton Bergstrand, youth director of the Augustana Lutheran Church, was the finest they had ever heard. They were also impressed by the daily meditations of Dr. G. Elson Ruff, editor of the "Lutheran", and the closing sermon by Dr. F. Eppling Reinartz, secretary of the United Lutheran Church. Dr. Gergstrand stated that youth today idolize popularity, cars, money and clothes. "Oddly enough, these same four idols are also the primary worries that confront youth today." He urged the young people not to let the world run you through the damp laundry of conformity" but to "stand up and be counted for Jesus in the church's battle with a lost world." He quoted Thoreau: "If it seems that I am out of step with everyone around me, it is because I am listening to a different drumbeat,"

and said that we must listen and respond to the living Christ.

The most controversial item in the business sessions was the "Guiding Statement on Commercialism". After a lengthy debate it was adopted by an overwhelming majority. In part, it states that "the results of commercialism in the congregation are detrimental to the Church, the community, and the personal lives of those who participate." And "commercialism . . . occurs when in the name of the Church and of our Lord there is buying or selling of products or services through such events as fairs, bazaars, games of chance, car washes, sales, and like enterprises."

Another real highlight of the convention was Missions Night. Six young men who came to Christ through the foreign mission work of our church were special guests. They came from Hong Kong, British Guiana, Liberia, Argentina and India and are now doing post-graduate work at American universities. At the conclusion of a stimulating presentation each of the six was asked to sum up in one sentence the message he would like to give to the whole Church. Without exception they expressed, first of all, THANKS for bringing the Gospel of Christ to them as individuals and to their peoples. One man said: "Keep it up!" But most compelling of all was the sentence of a handsome Negro from British Guiana: "The world needs you — don't let us down!" After he said that a certain tension gripped me as I thought of our synod. I wondered: "Have we been letting down the world and our Lord in our giving to the world-wide work of His Church?"

Minneota Parish News

After a summer characterized by the usual heat and the unusual lack of moisture, we in the Minneota parish have plunged into the Fall Church program. Sunday School began on Sept. 13, with most of the teachers and the superintendent from the previous year returning for another year in the service of this important phase of the church's work. Both Luther Leagues which are operated in conjunction with the ELC Lutheran church in town, held meetings throughout the summer, but these were more or less social gatherings. Meetings with planned educational programs were begun again in September.

World-wide Communion Sunday was again observed in the Parish on Oct. 4 with the celebration of Holy Communion. Later in the month, Pastor Bergman took part in the Winnipeg Area Evangelism Mission, by conducting a Mission at Langruth, Man.

November was another busy month. On Saturday, Nov. 14 a

Stewardship Fellowship Supper was held in the parlors of St. Paul's church, a film on stewardship being shown as a program. The next day, Nov. 15, was Loyalty Sunday, and the Men of the Brotherhood conducted the Every Member canvass to secure pledges to underwrite the proposed budget of the congregation.

Also held were Thanksgiving Services in both churches. Following this began the solemn preparation for Christmas during the Advent Season.



Lincoln Congregation

Services have been conducted on a bi-weekly basis here during the past year. Ladies Aid met several times during the past months, and gave their support to the major project of the congregation for the year which was to paint the church building exterior. This was done during the summer months.

—The Rev. Wallace M. Bergman

Selkirk Parish News

Our Sunday School, having undergone reorganization, has reached a new high point in enrollment and attendance. Enrollment is now 170. The children's stewardship program has resulted in heightened interest and in almost doubled weekly income. Monthly teacher training sessions, led by Dr. and Mrs. Day, have been instituted. Many new teachers, mostly young parents, are teaching this year.

The Lutheran Women's Fellowship, affiliated with United Lutheran Church Women, has established a non-profit book corner for re-

ligious books and is setting up a free circulating library for members and Sunday School staff.

Pastor William S. Dion of Minneapolis served as guest missioner during Lutheran Evangelism Week in late October. Fifty-one new prospective members were uncovered by the mission, with over 20 making decision to join the Church on December sixth. Regular Sunday morning service attendance, already higher this year than last, was further stimulated by the mission.

(Continued on Page 20)

Love's Broken Arm

Perhaps you have read the title and you're wondering exactly what it means, and for this reason you have begun to read these opening lines. Let me say that what is going to be said is important — it's vital — it's something that I hope you will not only read, but think about, and pray about. Love's broken arm — it doesn't really mean much, does it? And yet it means so immeasurably much — because the love we speak of, which has been handicapped in this way, is the **Love of Christ**. "For God so loved the world that He gave His Only Begotten son . . ." (John 3:16). This is the great love God has shown to us — a love without limits and yet completely undeserved. And God continues to pour this boundless love into the world in order that all men might come to the knowledge of the Truth. And He continues to seek every means available to make this Love felt among all mankind — a Love which shows itself in a concern for the total well-being of man, body and soul — which seeks to serve wherever the need may arise.

How does this affect you and me? We as Christians have committed ourselves completely and unreservedly to the cause of Christ — we have dedicated ourselves as instruments through which the Love of Christ can find expression. And this Love of Christ in us must strive always to find areas for expression — not only in terms of our own community, but in terms of the whole world.

Lutheran World Action has often been referred to as Love's Working Arm. It is the means that we in the Lutheran Church have devised as a means to give expression to this Love of Christ that we have

been talking about. We here in North America, living in the midst of plenty, having an over-abundance of almost every good material blessing that God has given into the hand of man, have responsibility to answer the needs of those who face each day not knowing whether there will be enough to eat, or whether they will have enough clothing to protect them from the elements. God has called us in Christ to be concerned about these people — He has called us to answer their physical as well as spiritual needs. We have been called to minister unto the total man. We have the opportunity to share with these countless millions through the agency known as Lutheran World Action. If we don't take advantage of this opportunity, this agency will not be able to function properly, and the Love of Christ will be hindered from reaching out to these people. We can see then how Love's Working Arm would be a broken arm, useless and unable to serve.

We in the Icelandic Synod, as a part of the ULCA, have a responsibility to meet the minimum goal which has been set for us. It is a **minimum** goal, remember, the very least that we should give to this important work. The apportionment averages out to around \$1 per member per year! \$1 per year! And yet for some strange reason we find it almost impossible to meet this goal. Both LWA and CLWA have received little from our Synod this year — we're way behind in our giving to this work. This is our response to the crying needs of suffering humanity — we who have been given so much by the ULCA in the way of financial support since
(Continued on Page 14)

Love's Broken Arm (Cont'd)

we joined that body. No feeling of obligation — no sense of responsibility — no love of Christ constraining us to answer His call to "feed His sheep".

This is the way we are — let's accept this fact. But let's not stop there. This is only the beginning — the realization that we have fallen short of our reasonable service in the name of Christ. There is still time to repent — to make a complete about face and reaffirm our loyalty to Christ and His cause. Our response will be measured somewhat by our willingness to give not only to meet our own current expenses but also to the work of the wider Church throughout the world.

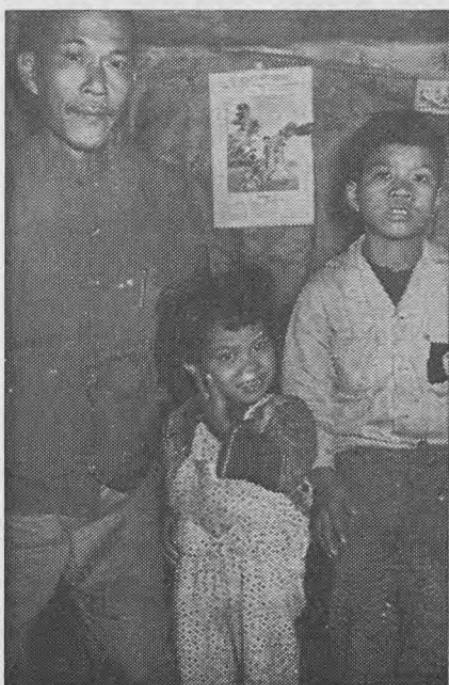
Our plea to you is this — "Give more to LWA than you had plan-

ned to give." Remember too, that LWA is **not** included in the apportioned benevolences we pay to Synod each year, the greater part of which is turned over to the ULCA. Each congregation must gather these monies separately and on its own. Some congregations have evidently forgotten about this responsibility. If there has been no special ingathering of funds in your congregation, try to find out why. When you make your gift to LWA, be sure that it is clearly marked, otherwise it will never reach its proper destination. Give it to your treasurer — he takes care of sending in these monies along with his other duties.

Mother? Food? Education? Which is needed most?

Leung Pui is one of the thousands of Hong Kong refugees who must hear their children cry frequently because of hunger. At first Leung Pui had been much more fortunate than most Hong Kong refugees, he had purchased a small charcoal business. When competition from big stores caused him to go broke, though, he had to accept the plight of the other refugees. He moved his family of four children into a small hut and became a day laborer. Most days no one needed his labor. Even though his oldest daughter sometimes found work in a factory, the combined family income was only \$10 per month. Often there was no food. Twenty days before this picture was taken, cold and malnutrition had brought death by T.B. to his wife.

It would be painful enough to see one's children grow up without a mother, or without an edu-



(Continued on Page 23)

Vancouver News

Another summer has come and gone, with its varied activities, work and holidays. It has been a busy summer in our church with services every Sunday — English at 11:00 a.m. and Icelandic at 1:00 p.m. Our pastor enjoyed a short holiday with his family on Vancouver Island. In his absence, Rev. K. Salmundson, Seattle, preached one Sunday and Mr. L. H. Thorlaksson another Sunday. Our organist, Mrs. Hamley enjoyed a month's holiday, with your reporter taking her place. No Sunday School was held for two months but classes are now back at work with Mr. J. Erlendson supervising.

On Sundays during the short interval between the services, several of the members who attend both the English and the Icelandic service, enjoyed a light lunch and coffee. This half hour of relaxation is a pleasant fellowship for the members.

We have had many visitors during the summer — from the prairies, California and Iceland, and we are always happy to meet friends who come to worship with us. I cannot mention all the visitors by name, but I will mention Senator and Mrs. G. S. Thorvaldson of Winnipeg and Ottawa. The ladies of the church entertained at a coffee party in their honor. It was a privilege and pleasure to have in our midst the first and only Icelandic senator in Canada, I believe, and particularly such a fine gentleman and his gracious wife. Thank you for coming Senator and Mrs. Thorvaldson. Others who attended our church during their visit in our city were: Mrs. Maria Sivertson and her daughter Gloria, of Winnipeg, who were here for two months;

Mr. and Mrs. David Bjornson, also of Winnipeg; Mrs. Dora Dalman, who spent some time here with her sister and cousin; Mrs. Thompson of Gimli and her brother, Mr. Thorsteinn Jonsson and his wife, of Oak View, Manitoba. The last mentioned came to Vancouver to meet their cousin, Mrs. Lilia Thorsteinn, of Copenhagen, Denmark, who now resides here and whom they had not seen for forty years.

Icelandic Day, July 25, at the Peace Arch, was a pleasant day. A large choir, including members of our church choir, sang favorite songs in Icelandic, directed and accompanied by Mr. Steve Solvason. The Rev. Kolbeinn Salmundson, of Seattle, Washington, was guest speaker. It was a real joy to meet relatives and friends from a distance and many happy reunions were held.

The Sunday School picnic was well attended and enjoyed. A special feature was the sing-song at the close of the day, with Mrs. Gwen Dowding, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steini Olson, playing the accompaniments on her piano accordion.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Hunter entertained members of the choir, their wives and husbands and others, at a buffet dinner in their summer home at Crescent Beach. It was a lovely party; the friendly, gracious atmosphere left nothing to be desired. We watched the tide roll in, as the sun sank low on the far horizon of the Pacific Ocean, and we sang all the old favorite songs. Thanks for the memories, Bjorg and Roly.

The W.A. celebrated their 15th anniversary by holding a garden party on the grounds of Mr. and

(Continued on Page 16)

Vancouver News (Cont'd)

Mrs. L. H. Thorlaksson's lovely home. Surrounded by beautiful flowers, shrubs and trees, the guests could stroll at ease or sit down and visit. Lunch and coffee was served. Mr. and Mrs. Thorlaksson's gracious hospitality, together with the W.A. created a warm atmosphere and made it a pleasant gathering.

But as in nature, so in our lives on earth, it is sunshine one day and shadow the next. It was early in July that Mr. and Mrs. Christopher and Dr. and Mrs. T. Thordarson, brought their young children to our church to be baptized. It was a bright sunny day and these young people looked so happy, standing by the altar with their beautiful babies. Two short weeks later we again assembled in the church, but a dark cloud seemed to cover the sun and hearts were heavy with grief. The angel of

death had come without warning and taken the young mother, Mrs. Helga Christopher, to his heavenly home above. She passed away at Kelowna, B.C., while on holiday with her family. The Icelandic community of Vancouver extends deepest sympathy to her husband and baby daughter and to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. Thordarson and family.

A loyal member of our church, Mr. Gunnar Gudmundson passed away in September. Funeral service was held in Mount Pleasant Funeral Home, with burial in Wynyard, Saskatchewan. Sincere sympathy is extended to his wife, Kristin, and grandson, Harold and family.

Mr. Thorvidur (Viddi) Halldorson, passed away at Hofn recently. He formerly resided at Kandahar, Saskatchewan.

—Gudlaug Johannesson

*St. Stephen's Church News***ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH**

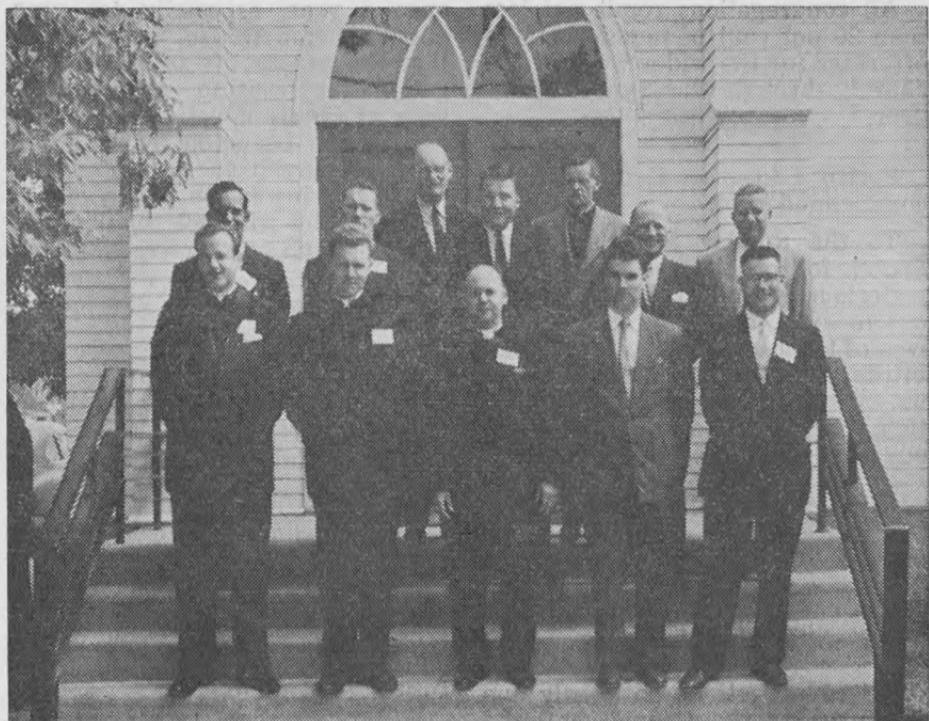
Enrollment in the Sunday School reached 160 by Nov. 1st. Average attendance is about 90 per cent of enrollment . . . Attendance at worship services averaged over 140 per Sunday during the month of October. Present membership of the congregation is: Baptized 312, Confirmed 182, Communing 151 . . .

An excellent Evangelism Mission Week was held in late October, with Pastor Harald Sigmar of Vancouver, Wash., as Missioner. Attendance was good, and many commitments for church membership were received as a result of the mission . . . The congregation has been disappointed with the delay in getting started with the construction of

their church. The Board of American Missions is generous with loans in order to build, but before giving their permission to proceed they require a multitude of details in connection with the plans of construction, and architects drawings, and plans of financing, etc. . . . This has held up ground-breaking, but the Building Committee is still hopeful that construction can begin and proceed during the winter months.

After Dec. 1st, all meetings, auxiliary activities, choir practices, etc., will be held in the Parish House (Sunday School Annex) which is located next door to the parsonage. The Pastor's Study will also be located in the Parish House.

Mid-Year Reminder



Front Row, l to r: Rev. O. Skulason, Mountain, N.D.; Rev. Jon Bjarman, Lundar, Man.; Rev. Eric Sigmar, St. Stephens, St. James, Man.; Rev. Ingthor Indridason, Langruth, Man.; Rev. Wallace Bergman, Minneota, Minnesota.

Second Row: Rev. Edward Day, Selkirk, Man.; Rev. O. Jack Larson, Arborg, Man.; Rev. Norman Nelson, Calvary, Seattle, Wash.; Rev. Valdimar Eylands, First Lutheran, Winnipeg, Man.; Rev. Donald Olsen, Glenboro, Man.

Back Row: Mr. Chester Myrom, Director Lutheran Foundation, New York City, N.Y.; Rev. Eirikur Brynjolfson, Vancouver, B.C.

At the Synod convention last June, certain suggestions in the form of recommendations were made by the various committees, concerning the year-round work of the church.

Stewardship Committee recommended that:

All congregations receive a special offering during the Christmas season for the work of Canadian or American Lutheran World Action and that Lenten Self-Denial Folders and LWA banks be used for this cause.

Mid-Year Reminder (Cont'd)

All congregations remit not less than 20 per cent of non-designated offerings for the wider work of the church through the Synod Treasurer.

Parish Education Committee recommended that:

To the Sunday Schools in our Synod, for proper use of the new materials which will begin coming out in 1960, the goals and objectives of these materials, as recorded in the "Long Range Program Manual" of the Board of Parish Education, be studied and discussed in our congregations.

Provision be made for leadership training, such as Sunday School teacher meetings.

Every church subscribe to the new Resource magazine for its Sunday School teachers.

All congregations have only one treasury for the Council and the Sunday School. Advantages: Reminding children of their responsibility to the whole church; reminding the church of its responsibility to the children.

Evangelism Committee recommended that:

The congregation be urged to establish year-round evangelism committees. Help in establishing these committees can be obtained from the Synod Evangelism Committee.

Evangelism find greater expression and outlet in the congregations in the following ways: (a) Conduct a Bible Study Course open to the public. (b) Hold a pastor's class in each congregation at least

once a year, especially for prospective members. (c) Develop further the prayer life of the congregation, emphasizing the importance of family devotions. (d) Special efforts be made by congregational evangelism committees to enlist and instruct a group of Lay Visitors who will call regularly on members and prospective members.

Youth Committee recommended that:

The parishes make definite plans to make known to the youth the many opportunities to serve the Church as full time Christian workers.

The parishes be encouraged to include in their educational program leadership courses for youth to help them to become better acquainted with the work of the church, thus preparing them for future leadership.

The parishes encourage the youth to take an active part in the Evangelism program of the church, thus drawing the youth to a clearer understanding of the Christian faith and their part in influencing others for Christ.

The parishes consider the Luther League in their annual budget, providing funds if necessary, for the purchase of the required literature to carry on its program.

The chairmen of the above-mentioned committees are urged to check to see if these recommendations are being carried out in their congregations. Synodical chairmen are willing and eager to give advice, information and aid to all our churches in implementing these programs.

South America Big, And Important



Attending the LWF/Latin America Committee meeting in Buenos Aires April 17 are Dr. Ernesto T. Schlieper, president of the 509,000 member Lutheran Church of Brazil, and Committee members Dr. Earl J. Treusch of Winnipeg, Secretary, Rev. Ake Kastlund of Stockholm, Sweden, Dr. Friedrich Huebner of Hanover, Germany, Chairman, and, second table, Dr. Melvin A. Hammarberg. The latter and Dr. Rolf Syrdal, right, both of Minneapolis, are Executive Directors of the foreign missions boards of the Augustana and Evangelical Lutheran Churches respectively.

It's a long trip around South America! Few of us who live in Canada realize the geographic vastness of the Continent to the South, the magnitude of its many cities, or the numerical strength of its population. For example, a population of several millions is by no means unusual in Latin America. Greater Buenos Aires numbers almost eight million people.

Brazil is larger than the continental United States, and has a pop-

ulation of almost 60 millions.

The flight from Rio de Janeiro to Caracas is the longest overland flight in the world, a distance of approximately 3,000 miles. These several facts are typical of the vastness of the continent to the south — and its population is still expanding very rapidly.

In all of this vastness some 850,000 people are members of Lutheran churches — about three times as many as is the case in our own

South America (Cont'd)

country. Most of these, notably in Brazil, are descendants of immigrants from Germany, who arrived during the course of the past 100 years. Their congregations are members of firmly established synods which today constitute a Federation under the Presidency of Dr. Ernesto Schlieper, of Rio de Janeiro. Other congregations in many parts of Latin America are the products of the mission enterprise of North American Lutheran church bodies. These churches are made up almost entirely of members of the native population which has lived there since the days of the earliest settlement from Spain and Portugal.

Of particular interest to us of the Lutheran World Federation is the work of its Latin American Committee in these countries. Following the close of World War II thousands of people from many parts of Europe flocked to the various countries of Central and South America. A great many of these newcomers to western shores were Lutheran, but found no Lutheran church to welcome them in a majority of these countries. World Lutheranism expressed its concern for these peoples through the establishment of the Latin American Committee of the Lutheran World Federation. Through this Committee pastors were sent to many parts of Central and South America, and congregations established for these newcomers. As a result of these efforts Lutheran services are being held today in all countries of this continent.

A great deal of impetus has also been provided by this Committee in co-ordinating the efforts of all Lutheran bodies and missions oper-

ating in South America. The recent Latin America Conference held in Buenos Aires, the third of its kind in recent years, is an example of this. Representation was present from all parts of South America, and common problems of many kinds were discussed.

Lutherans in Canada, through Canadian Lutheran World Action contributions, have participated in this work from the very beginning, and have named a representative to the Latin America Committee. The progress of Lutheranism in these countries to the South should be of concern to us here, for to a certain degree their problems have been rather similar to ours. They too have had to establish new homes in a new land in a situation wherein they are a minority religion. They have, however, reached a stage where they are today the largest Protestant body in the land, and we look forward to the day when there may be a strong thread of Lutheranism reaching from the north to south throughout this entire hemisphere.

Selkirk Parish News

(Continued from Page 12)

monthly afternoon Icelandic services continue, with Dr. V. J. Eylands and Dr. Day alternating as preachers. Forty-eight persons attended the October Icelandic service.

The congregation has received a beautiful new missal stand for the altar, as a memorial to the late Mrs. John Walterson. The gift was made by Mrs. Walterson's relatives and by our Junior Ladies Aid.

—Edward Archer Day

A Christian Plans His Career

Consider the World's Needs

Before deciding how you will invest your life you should get vividly before you the needs of the world. Your aim should be to discover a work that will put your talents and abilities to the best possible use for God and man.

Christian men and women are needed in teaching, medicine, science, engineering, industry, law, business, farming, the ministry and countless other types of work. Any good library will contain a variety of books, pamphlets, and articles describing occupations. Talk with people who have first-hand knowledge of the jobs you are considering. Learn all you can about their specific requirements, such as personal qualifications and the amount and kind of training and education required.

The Church has many opportunities for qualified persons in full-time church vocations. These are many and varied and call for many different interests and abilities. The ministry, the diaconate, parish work, foreign missions, music, teaching, writing are only a few of these church vocations. Your pastor can give you helpful information about such opportunities for service in the church. Vocational information may also be secured through boards, auxiliaries and agencies of the church. The Board of Higher Education, 231 Madison Avenue, New York 16, New York, is responsible for coordinating the vocational services of the United Lutheran Church in America.

Seek to Serve

If one is to be truly satisfied in his work, he must be engaged in an activity that gives him a feeling

of service. Look for a career that in some way contributes to the welfare and happiness of others; something that builds life and makes it better.

Some young people make the mistake of seeking the job that will pay them the most money. There are rewards that mean much more than money and which make certain ill-paid occupations very attractive.

The Christian believes that God has a purpose for his life and tries earnestly and prayerfully to find it. To understand God's purpose for your life you must let yourself be guided by His Spirit. This means consulting God in prayer and a study of the Bible as you prepare your heart to hear His voice. Sincerely ask, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?"

First Lutheran Church

(Continued from Page 6)

pertinent questions in the bulletin and questions were directed to Dr. Kindsvatter thick and fast by the audience. All of these were answered intelligently and comprehensively. Following each service there was a fellowship hour. Following the Mission Week, the Evangelism Committee met again to evaluate the results and take stock of what improvements could be made in preparing for future missions. On the whole the Mission Week seemed to have stimulated the congregation and there was a large attendance at services Sunday mornings, November 1st and 8th.

—Halldor Bjarnason

Langruth Parish News

(Continued from Page 10)

sung as an anthem. Those taking part in the service were Brian Bott who read the Scripture. Joe Lasson with the reading of a Prayer and Roberta McCartney who read an article on "The Silence of Your Youth."

Rev. Indridason gave a short sermon addressing his thoughts to the Youth of Today. The ushers were Garry Hanneson and Kelly Johnson. The offering will be forwarded to the Luther League of America.

Pastor Inghor had his first Baptism at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thor Kjartanson whose two grandsons were baptised while visiting with their grandparents. One a child of Gunnar Kjartanson from Winnipeg and the other the child of Steve from Amaranth.

One Icelandic service has been held. A Communion Service was conducted on World Wide Communion Sunday.

A Vacation Church School was held early in August with an attendance of 45 pupils and a good staff of teachers with Mrs. V. Bjarnarson supervising.

The attendance of Luther League has risen from 12 to 22.

A Confirmation Class was started early in September with a membership of 20, four being from Amaranth.

A Sunday School picnic was held in mid-August. We were unfortunate with the weather but were able to have races and most of the food over before the rain started.

An induction of two officers and four Sunday School teachers were held Sunday, September 27th. Officer Mrs. B. Bjarnarson as superintendent, Miss Louise Bott as trea-

surer and organist. Mrs. R. Rinn, Miss Shirley Hanneson and Miss Robert McCartney, Miss Louise Bott, Primary. Rev. Inghor teaches the Intermediate Class.

The Missionary Society held an open meeting with members of the W.M.S., the United W.A., members of our Lutheran Church attending. The choir sang two selections. Rev. Inghor Indridason read an article on the work of India. Mrs. B. Bjarnarson read a paper on Missionary Work and of teaching it to the Sunday School child. There was a group reading of the Story of Phoebe, the first deaconess.

On October 25th our Evangelism Mission starts and we hope for a joyous gathering of souls during our week of Evangelism. May God bless all our evangelism effort.

A small cottage has been purchased for a parsonage, into which the Pastor and his family will soon move.

—Mrs. Elizabeth Bjarnarson

Borg Home Celebrates 10th Anniversary

On November 8th, Borg Pioneer Memorial Home, which is owned and operated by the congregations of the Mountain Parish, celebrated their 10th anniversary. Presiding was Freeman Einarson of Mountain, former Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Home.

Guest speakers included Dr. Richard Beck, Mr. Victor Sturlaugsen, and Rev. Eric H. Sigmar, representing the synod. Special music was presented by the Gardar Church Choir. Announcement was made of plans to start a funding drive to build an addition to the home — infirmary unit, and other rooms. Present capacity of the home is 50 residents.

From the President's Desk**(Continued from Page 4)**

sident delivered the anniversary sermon. In "honor" of the anniversary the congregation is building an addition to the church which is expected to cost about \$5,000.

In mid-November your president visited our little congregation, Gudbrands, near Morden, Man. It was a festive service with confirmation, communion and baptisms, and over 80 people in attendance. Following the service a Fellowship Hour was held, at which time Mrs. Louise Gislason was honored on the occasion of her 75th birthday; and a gift was presented to her by the congregation in appreciation for her 42 years as organist and choir leader!

After Pastor Skulason's departure, the Executive Board of Synod elected Pastor Donald Olsen of Glenboro as synod secretary. At a recent meeting of the executive board the dates for our next convention — 75th Anniversary — were finalized as June 5th-8th.

A blessed Christmas and a happy and meaningful New Year to you all!

E. H. S.

The Parish Messenger

News Journal of the Icelandic Evangelical Lutheran Synod of America.

Printed quarterly by Vopni Press Ltd., in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba

Editor — Mrs. R. Goodman
87 Fidler Ave., Winnipeg 13, Man.

Love's Broken Arm**(Continued from Page 14)**

cation, but to see them go out during the day to beg for food surely must cause the greatest anguish.

Lutheran World Action cannot provide mothers, and it rarely has enough money to place refugee children in schools, but it does distribute much food.

Every dollar that exceeds the 1959 LWA goal will be used to expand the Lutheran Church's services to refugees.

We would not be shirking our responsibility if only we could be made to realize how desperate is the need overseas. And the need has not diminished in spite of the fact that it is 15 years since the last World War. Starvation and suffering come as a result of many other things — natural disasters, revolutions, and other factors have kept up a continuous mass of refugees who can in no way supply their own need. If we would only realize that except for the accident of birth it could have been you or me in that situation. God has indeed richly blessed us! Let us share these blessings with those less fortunate than we! Let us do our part to mend the broken Arm of Love, and by our generous giving inject life into it. Then will LWA truly stand for Love's Working Arm in the world.

Rev. Wallace M. Bergman,
Synod LWA Director, USA.

and nothing more. The old fashioned men
do not understand the
new methods.

He does not
like the
new methods.

He is fond of the old ways
of doing things. He believes
in old ways and is
not interested in
new methods.

He is fond of the old ways
of doing things. He believes
in old ways and is
not interested in
new methods.

He is fond of the old ways
of doing things. He believes
in old ways and is
not interested in
new methods.

He is fond of the old ways
of doing things. He believes
in old ways and is
not interested in
new methods.

He is fond of the old ways
of doing things. He believes
in old ways and is
not interested in
new methods.

He is fond of the old ways
of doing things. He believes
in old ways and is
not interested in
new methods.

